

Susan Hunt  
Lead Member of the Examining Authority  
The Planning Inspectorate  
c/o QUADIENT  
60 Buckingham Drive  
Slough  
SL1 4PN

24 December 2025  
By email

Your Reference EN020027

Dear Ms Hunt

**National Grid Electricity Transmission plc  
The proposed Norwich to Tilbury Development Consent Order  
Applicant's Response to letter of 19 December 2025**

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2025 in response to our submissions of 12 December 2025 giving notice of our intention to submit two change applications. We appreciate the comprehensive response.

We note that our letters can be found in the examination library as Change Request 1 [AS-049] and Change Request 2 [AS-50]. We have found it helpful to also refer to the Guidance "Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Changes to an application after it has been accepted for an examination", in preparing this reply.

## **Consultation**

We note the request to adopt a similar approach to consultation for both proposed changes and confirm that we will do that. We will carry out appropriate and proportionate targeted consultation with prescribed consultees, relevant local authorities and parish councils, persons with an interest in land affected by the proposed change, and nearby properties which are likely to be affected.

We will publish non-statutory advertisements in the appropriate newspapers.

We will write to the relevant stakeholders outlining the proposed change, consultation scope, consultation dates and details of how to participate in the consultation relevant to them. The correspondence will cover all the matters set out in paragraph 5.2.4 of the application letters and also include contact details.

In addition to the webinar we mentioned in the notification letters, we will hold an in-person event close to the location of each change.

## **Timetable**

You asked for further information on the proposed timeline. In our notification letters we included at table 2 an indicative timetable for implementing the change requests on a week-by-week basis. At paragraph 6.1.5 of each notification letter, we stated our intention to submit the formal change applications "towards the end of March 2026". This is shown in table 2 as being the week commencing 23 March 2026. The final date will be influenced by the nature of the consultation responses received and the extent to which they result in amendments to the changes that we propose. We feel that it is important that we give conscientious

consideration to the consultation responses before a decision is made following the consultation period. We will also need to prepare a consultation report that includes details of how we have considered the content of the responses received as set out in the guidance. We have a process that facilitates and documents this conscientious consideration, and this takes time. For example, it may be necessary to update drawings after we have considered the responses, and this is not a quick process. We have allowed time to do this in our indicative programme.

Nevertheless, recognising the urgent nature of the project, we will endeavour to submit the formal change applications as soon as is reasonably practicable after the close of the consultation, but as highlighted above, that will depend on the nature of the feedback we receive, and whether we need to change the drawings.

## **Statement of Reasons**

As requested, we enclose an interim updated draft statement of reasons, clearly setting out our strategy for evaluating compulsory acquisition, temporary possession and land rights in respect of the project with the proposed changes. Please note, this interim draft is for information only at this stage pending the outcome of the consultation. As per the guidance, our formal change applications will include for publication of a further updated statement of reasons (clean and tracked versions) by when we will also be able to update the technical appendices including referencing any updated works and land plans.

## **Future Changes**

We confirm we do not envisage making further changes to the application, subject, of course, to matters that may arise during the examination.

## **Correspondence**

If you have any queries about the content of this letter, please contact Ian Fletcher or Emma Eshelby.

Please acknowledge safe receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Pepper  
Project Director